

Dear President Clinton,

I need your help. In September 1996, the US harvested its first batch of genetically engineered crops. In the past 30 months our government has approved more than 40 genetically engineered organisms for commercial distribution impacting over a third of our corn and soybean crops and over 60% of our processed foods. These foods have never been tested for long-term safety. Nor are they labeled. All over the world government leaders, scientists, food industry members and consumers are urging the United States to exercise caution in the unfoldment of this technology. Yet we keep ignoring their pleas. Instead, we send high-ranking officials and biotech industry representatives to force these countries to bend to the corporate will of the United States and threaten to bring any nation who disagrees with our policies before the World Trade Organization.

I find it indefensible that my government refuses to allow other nations the right to choose not to import these foods. As a country that stands up for human rights around the world, we must support the right of people everywhere to vote "No" on this issue. This behavior diminishes us all and brings shame to our nation.

Genetically engineered foods are experimental. Enough reputable scientists and physicians, both here in the US and abroad, consider them to be potentially hazardous to our health and ecosystem. I don't want to eat them. Nor do I want to feed them to my children, I find it outrageous that my government refuses to support my right to eat the foods I want to eat, to proper safety testing, thorough and appropriate risk assessment protocols and truthful labeling.

My family is caught in the middle of an international debate. The people I love have been turned into guinea pigs in the hugest food experiment of all time. When qualified scientists disagree, the US government has no scientific grounds for claiming unilaterally that these foods are safe. So please don't send me a form letter stating that the FDA believes they are safe. It will not do.

As an American, I ask that the Clinton administration:

- Return my right to make informed choices in the market place
- Require the mandatory labeling of all GE foods
- Establish an immediate 5-year moratorium on the release of genetically engineered organisms.

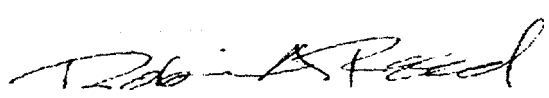
During this time I ask that you create an independent review board to:

- Scientifically assess the hazards of genetically engineered organisms (GEOs) to human health and the environment;
- Evaluate the cultural, economic and ethical impacts of the technology;
- Structure a program and set of procedures to evaluate every individual GEO before it is approved for commercial distribution on any level.

This board must have:

- Scientists and consumers, none of whom stand to benefit in any way from the promotion of this technology;
- Legal authority to prohibit the marketing, sales and planting of any and all GEOs;
- Authority to create policies for small-scale field trials of GEOs.

Mr. President, you are known throughout the nation as a man who holds his family and the environment very close to his heart. As a Democrat, you are known for supporting the rights of the little people. But you have aligned yourself with the big guys on this one and left the rest of us out of your thinking and without your protection. I urge you to remember your responsibility to the American people and serve us now. And if you find the pressure from the industry too much to bear, please just be a father and safeguard the food supply and secure the genetic heritage of the earth for your children.

Sincerely, 

Name Robin Reed
Address PoBox 104 IRVINE, KY 40336
Date 9/27/99

92N-0139

C 6307

Request for Legislation to Label Genetically Engineered Foods

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

*** RECEIVED ***
Nov 12, 1999 16:22:59 WS# 02
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE
CONTROL CENTER

Dear President Clinton,

I am very concerned **that I** am eating genetically engineered foods without being told that fact. **I am sending you this letter to insist that legislation be passed into law that will require genetically engineered foods to be labeled as such, regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an ingredient in processed foods.**

Genetically engineered crops are not the same as those produced by typical hybridization. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are being negligent in protecting the rights of de American **public** in **regards** to **genetically** engineered foods. I am asking you to act legislatively to stop these agencies' **neglect of public** interest.

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled, although public opinion polls show a majority of Americans want them labeled. (81% in a January 11, 1999 Time magazine poll.) Last year the USDA even proposed to include genetically engineered foods in the definition of organic! The EPA is allowing the Bt bacteria (a valuable tool for organic agriculture) to be genetically engineered into the structure of plants. This could seriously undermine organic agriculture and cause significant human health and environmental problems.

Varieties of potatoes and corn are currently being sold that have been genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin (Bacillus thuringiensis). The Bt toxin stays in the cell structure of the plants and is deadly enough to kill insects. We are being told these foods are safe for human consumption, but we have heard that before about DDT, EDB, and many other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing. I do not want to eat genetically engineered foods that contain the Bt toxin. Nor do I want to eat "Roundup Ready" soybeans or other future products such as tomatoes that contain the gene from a fish! But without labeling I cannot avoid it. So I am asking you to pass legislation to label all genetically engineered foods. Similar labeling legislation has already been passed in Europe and Australia.

Please write back to me and let me know **if you** intend to work to pass this legislation.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Robin A. Reed (signature)
ROBIN A. REED (print name)
PO BOX 104 (address)
IRVINE, KY 40336 (city, state, zip)